

1963

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THE RURAL DISTRICT
OF
ST. AUSTELL

ACKD. BY



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH



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To the Chairman and Councillors of the
St. Austell Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1963.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the Rural District was lower than the rate for England and Wales, but the stillbirth rate remains appreciably higher than for the Country as a whole. All the causes of stillbirth are not yet controllable and considerable study is going on in this field of medicine. The causes of death throughout the District are similar to the National patterns viz:- heart and malignant diseases being the main contributors.

The influx of holiday visitors, while welcome to the economy of the District, throws a strain on all public services. The food trades must be kept under constant observation and food handlers advised on hygiene. The sewage systems are suddenly forced to cope with a much greater flow than normal, and although progress continues to be made with sewage works, there are still parishes without sewerage facilities. Similarly, although mains extensions continue to pipe water supplies to more parts of the District, some villages are still supplied only by well water. The public conveniences are not equipped with suitable washing facilities, and it is hoped that this can be remedied. In spite of these problems it is pleasant to record that there were no notifications of disease due to food contamination. 100% meat inspection was maintained in 1963.

There is still a large waiting list for Council Houses. The policy of the Council in encouraging applications for improvement grants, and of granting mortgages for house purchase does to some extent help the housing situation.

I should like to express thanks to my colleagues in the various departments for their co-operation, especially the members of the Public Health Department for their support at all times, and a particular word of thanks to Mr. Townsend and Mr. Lawless for their sections of this report.

I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their unfailing interest and courtesy.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant,

J. McGovern,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

National and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	...	82,389 acres
Population	...	21,740
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	6,813
Rateable Value	...	£640,457
Product of Penny Rate	...	£2,582

The St. Austell Rural District is an extensive area stretching across the County and having a northern and southern seaboard. Typical of England, where the weather is a standard source of conversation, the Rural District shows distinct differences in weather conditions between the north and south coasts. The north coast is the drier, more bracing but more windy aspect. The China Clay Industry, Agriculture and the Tourist Trade are the main sources of income. In recent years the China Clay Industry has grown continuously and is a valuable export. The influx of visitors causes a great seasonal increase in population, with the concomitants of increase of prosperity and increase of problems.

Rainfall

Recorded at Hendra Pumping Station, St. Stephen.

Total for the year - 48.81".

Wettest month - November - 9.83".

Driest month - January - 1.18".

January and February were bitterly cold months and the winter of 1962/63 will long be remembered.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate/1,000 Population</u> <u>Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Legitimate	164	164)	351	16.15	
Illegitimate	10	13)			
Corrected for comparison with other areas				17.28	18.2
Illegitimate births per cent of total live births				6.55%	6.9%
<u>Still Births</u>				<u>Rate/1,000 Live & Still Births</u> <u>Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Legitimate	5	7)	13	35.7	17.2
Illegitimate	1	0)			
<u>Total Live & Still Births</u>	180	184	364		
<u>Infant Deaths</u>					
Legitimate	3	3)	6		
Illegitimate	0	0)			
Rate/1,000 total live births				17.00	21.1
Rate/1,000 legitimate live births				18.2	
Rate/1,000 illegitimate live births				0.0	
<u>Neo-natal deaths</u> (under 4 weeks)				<u>Rate/1,000 Live Births</u>	
	3	2	5	14.2	14.2
<u>Early neo-natal deaths</u> (under 1 week)					
	3	2	5	14.2	12.26
<u>Peri-natal Deaths</u>				<u>Rate/1,000 Live & Still Births</u>	
Still births & deaths under 1 week	9	9	18	52.2	29.3
Maternal Deaths	Nil		-	0.0	0.28
<u>Deaths (All ages and causes)</u>				<u>Rate/1,000 Population</u>	
	158	149	307	14.00	
Corrected for comparisons with other areas				14.00	12.2

The following table gives the causes of infant deaths :-

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Age in Weeks</u>						<u>Total</u>
	<u>-1</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-3</u>	<u>-4</u>	<u>-5</u>	<u>Over 5</u>	
Premature	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Atelectasis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Abnormality	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Total all causes	5	-	-	-	1	-	6

The following is an abbreviated list of the causes of death of persons of all ages :-

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1) Tub. of resp. sys.	1	2
2) Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3) Syphilitic disease	-	-
4) Diphtheria	-	-
5) Whooping Cough	-	-
6) Meningococcal infections	-	-
7) Acute polioimyelitis	-	-
8) Measles	-	-
9) Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10) Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3
11) " " Lung, bronchus	3	-
12) " " breast	-	4
13) " " uterus	-	3
14) Other malig. & lumphatic neoplasms	17	14
15) Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1
16) Diabetes	1	2
17) Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	24
18) Coronary disease, angina	42	28
19) Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
20) Other heart disease	28	35
21) Other circulatory disease	2	4
22) Influenza	2	1
23) Pneumonia	11	5
24) Bronchitis	3	3
25) Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2
26) Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	-
27) Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28) Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
29) Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
30) Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31) Congenital malformations	1	3
32) Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	9
33) Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34) All other accidents	4	3
35) Suicide	-	-
36) Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All Causes	158	149

Number of Deaths in Age Groups

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 4 weeks	3	2
4 weeks and under 1 year	-	1
Age in Years		
1-	1	-
5-	-	1
15-	2	-
25-	3	1
35-	3	7
45-	11	7
55-	29	20
65-	49	31
75 and over	57	79

The Causes of Greatest Mortality during 1963

Heart Diseases	136
Cancer (All forms)	50
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	43
Diseases of Respiratory System	27

SECTION B

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

(a) Medical Officer of Health

J. McGovern M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Area Health Office,
Moorland Road,
St. Austell.
St. Austell 2206.

(b) Public Health Inspectors

H. G. Lawless, Cert. S.I.B., Food Inspector's Certificate.
T. J. Down, Cert. S.I.B.
M. J. Abrams, Cert. S.I.B., Food Inspector's Certificate.

Laboratory Facilities

These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material for investigation is sent.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

In addition to supplies of diphtheria prophylactic previously available, supplies of whooping cough vaccine and of tetanus antigen in varying combinations are available at the Health Area Office and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners on request.

Nursing Service

The establishment of nurses who carry out domiciliary services is as follows :-

<u>District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor</u>	11
<u>Wholetime Health Visitor</u>	1

The services under the control of the Cornwall County Council have operated smoothly.

Domiciliary Midwifery

The construction of a maternity block for the new hospital to be built in St. Austell has commenced.

About 52.5% of women now have their babies at home and the new accommodation which will be more readily accessible may lead to a larger number of mothers making use of its facilities.

Ante-Natal Care

There are no ante-natal clinics in the rural area and all pregnant women are referred either to their own practitioners or to the clinics at St. Austell or Newquay.

Infant Welfare

Infant Welfare Clinics operate successfully at Roche, Indian Queens, St. Dennis and Summercourt.

The success of these centres is partly due to the help given by voluntary workers for whom there is still great opportunity for service to the community.

The infant welfare centres provide a most convenient place for immunisation and health education.

Care and After Care

Young children and all persons on discharge from hospital are followed up by the District Nurses when requested by the hospital almoners.

Domestic Help Service

The service worked well throughout the year.

36 families received help.

Hospital

There is no hospital in the district and cases are sent to Newquay, Fowey and St. Austell District Hospitals, to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro for special investigation and treatment, to Redruth in the case of maternity and to the Isolation Hospital at Truro in the case of infectious diseases.

Clinics

The following clinics are held at the places and dates indicated :-

Child Welfare	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
	(Newquay	- Red Cross Hall - 1st and 3rd Thursday.
	(- St. Columb Minor - 2nd and 4th Thursday.
	(Par	- Gott Hall - 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
	(Roche	- Church Hall - 1st and 4th Tuesday.
	(Indian Queens	- Ambulance Hall - 3rd Wednesday.
	(St. Dennis	- Methodist Sunday School - 4th Thursday.
	(Summercourt	- Memorial Hall - 2nd Wednesday.
Ante-Natal	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - Weekly - Monday forenoon.
	(Newquay	- Hospital - Weekly - Monday afternoon.
Orthopaedic	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - Tuesday forenoon.
	(Newquay	- St. John's Ambulance Hall - Weekly - Thursday Afternoon.
Tuberculosis	(St. Austell	- Hospital - Weekly - Monday.
	(Newquay	- Hospital - 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday.
Tuberculosis Contacts	(St. Austell	- 1st Monday and last Tuesday (afternoon).
	(Newquay	- 3rd Tuesday (afternoon).
Dental	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - every day.
	(Newquay	- Berry Road - thrice weekly.
Ophthalmic	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - Tuesday - by appointment.
	(Newquay	- Hospital - by arrangement.
E.N.T.	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - by arrangement.
	(Newquay	- Hospital - by arrangement.
Pyschiatric	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - Tuesday afternoon and Thursday forenoon.

SECTION C

Sanitary Conditions

Water Supplies

- (a) Scheme for six Fowey River Scheme Branch Mains was started in July 1963. By the end of the year water was available from those laid in Rescassa, Kestle, Polmassick, Little Polgooth and Treskillling. Work was in hand on the Milltown Branch.
- (b) Feeder main laid Hewas Water - Grampound enabling Grampound Reservoir to be supplied from the Fowey River Scheme. Work completed August 1963 and old source abandoned.
- (c) Mains extension, Chapel Road, Sticker served new development and existing properties. Completed May 1963.
- (d) Mains extension, Hornick Hill, Lanjeth served new development and existing properties. Completed October 1963.
- (e) Mains renewal, Roche Road, Bugle improved supply to existing properties. Completed November 1963.

(f) Distribution of Supplies

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Properties Served</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Colan	-	Outside Stat. Area.
Creed	27	
Grampound	131	
Lanlivery	30	
Luxulyan	55	
St. Mawgan-in-Pydar	278	
Roche	360	
St. Columb Major	850	Part Parish outside Stat. Area.
St. Dennis	725	
St. Enoder	316	
St. Ewe	102	
St. Goran	163	
St. Mewan	474	
St. Michael Caerhays	--	
St. Sampson	72	
St. Stephen-in-Brannel	1,293	
St. Wenn	-	
	<u>4,876</u>	

(g) Samples

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Water supplied after treatment	68	-	68
Water supplied without treatment	14	-	14
Public Wells and Pumps	11	10	21
Total	93	10	103

Sewerage

- (a) St. Stephen sewerage and sewage disposal reconstruction completed September 1963. New works at Gwindra brought into operation and old works at Terras abandoned.

- (b) Ministry approval received for acceptance of tender for Roche Sewage Disposal Works reconstruction and Station Road sewer extension. Work will start early 1964.
- (c) Revised scheme for Fraddon Sewerage prepared and submitted to Ministry. Awaits date of Inquiry.
- (d) Gorran Churchtown sewerage scheme will be submitted for Ministry approval early in 1964.
- (e) Quintrell Downs Sewerage Scheme was submitted to Ministry in May 1964 but is being delayed by land purchase difficulties.
- (f) Sticker Sewerage Scheme - design commenced.
- (g) St. Mawgan and Trenance Sewerage Scheme - design commenced by Consulting Engineer.
- (h) Following tabulations shown sewerage position in all parishes.

No.

Parishes served excent for
minor localities

Grampound

Roche

St. Columb Major

St. Dennis

St. Sampson

St. Stephen-in-Brannel 6

Parishes with partial service

St. Goran

St. Mewan 2

Parishes with schemes awaiting
execution

Colan

St. Mawgan-in-Pydar

St. Enoder 3

Parishes with no sewerage
facilities

Creed

Lanlivery

Luxulyan

St. Ewe

St. Michael Caerhays

St. Wenn 6

Public Conveniences

Improvement works carried out at Mawgan Porth and Gorran Haven public conveniences. Others redecorated throughout.

The Council own and maintain ten public conveniences and contribute towards the upkeep of two others which are privately owned.

Rodent Control

The Rodent operator continues to be employed on other Public Health Department work also. As was previously mentioned, the fairly widespread use by farmers and others of "Warfarin" compound keep the problem under a fair degree of control without our intervention. Doubtless the advice widely given has reduced our operative work.

Summary of Work - 1963

No. of treatments of Domestic Premises	875
" " " " Council's Tips	41
" " " " Business premises by Contract	37
" " " " Farms by Contract	15
" " Domestic Premises Surveyed	1,021
" " Block Controls	52
" " Major Infestations	13
" " Minor Infestations	267

Nuisances

Very few nuisances were reported or found. One was in connection with a large piggery which was, on numerous occasions, found to be run as scientifically and well as possible. Another was in respect of farmhouse and yard drainage, the abatement of which depends upon some County Council and estate works, which have been decided upon but not yet done. Many small drainage nuisances have disappeared by the operation of the Improvement Grants Scheme.

Beaches - Life Saving

The only beach considered dangerous is that at Mawgan Porth, where surfing takes place. A qualified Australian life-guard was again employed for the summer months. There were a number of rescues and no fatalities. Oil pollution was not serious this year.

Refuse Collection

No change. Four 12 c.yd. lorries serve the district, and our Contract with the R.A.F. re St. Mawgan Aerodrome was renewed. An Order was given for the replacement of the oldest vehicle.

Refuse Disposal

One new tip was commenced to serve the southern part of the district consequent upon the finishing of the existing one. The question of employing proper plant for controlled tipping was considered. It was decided to hire rather than purchase.

Caravans

The general improvement in existing sites continues, and the number of applications for single van sites is increasing. It is felt that the omission of tents from the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 was a serious fault, and better control would result from their inclusion.

SECTION D

Housing

Applications for Council Houses Current - Dec. 1963

Total number of live applications	235
" " of families without separate houses	29
" " in unfit houses	47
" " in overcrowded conditions	25 (Est'd)
" " of unmarried persons applying	3
" " requiring houses for other reasons	131

Type of House required by Applicants

1 bedroom	8
2 "	74
3 "	81
4 "	1
Unclassified	71

(a) Completions during the year comprised :-

Luxulyan	4 houses
St. Columb	12 houses
	16 bungalows
	—
	32
	—

(b) Work in hand at the end of the year included :-

Trelowth	4 bungalows
	10 houses
	—
	14
	—

(c) Work proposed for starting in 1964 included :-

Whitemoor	6 bungalows
St. Dennis	16 bungalows
	13 houses
St. Mawgan-in-Pydar	7 houses
Lanlivery	4 semi-bungalows
	—
	46
	—

(d) Overall position at 31st December, 1963 :-

Pre-war Council Houses	237
Post war for general need	514
Post war acquisition and adaptation	8
Post war for slum clearance	60
	—
	819
Under construction (See 'B' above)	14
	—
	833
	==

Improvement Grants

Number approved in 1963 :-

Standard	16
Discretionary	52
	—
	68
	==

involving eventual grant payments totalling approximately £22,000.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supplies

The improved method of delivery of supplies to retailers, previously mentioned as being extremely necessary, has resulted in the cessation of complaints from the public about keeping quality.

(b) Ice Cream

Almost always retailed pre-packed. The locally manufactured article is regularly sampled, and where sold from bulk, supervision is made of utensils, storage, etc. All Retailers have proper refrigerators. Itinerant Vendors have suitable equipment, and carry proper hand-washing facilities.

(c) Meat Inspection - Slaughterhouses

100 per cent inspection continues throughout the district, and the excellent quality can readily be seen from the table below.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	778	-	-	437	637	-
Number inspected	778	-	-	437	637	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	24	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.3	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.47	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Weight Condemned	338 lbs				45 lbs	

SECTION F

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received

<u>Disease</u>	<u>1963</u> <u>No. of cases - St. Austell Rural</u>
Scarlet Fever	7
Whooping Cough	4
Measles	82
Acute Pneumonia	9
Meningococcal Infection	1

Diphtheria Immunisation

Immunisation in relation to the Child Population

	<u>Children born in years</u>							Total
	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1954 - 58	1949 - 53	
Number of Primary Immunisations	52	135	15	2	3	7	10	224
Reinforcing Injection	—	3	7	4	2	117	50	183

An attempt is being made to have all children not previously immunised against tetanus to be protected. This means a greatly extended programme in the schools but it is considered worthwhile to avoid the unpleasant symptoms which may arise should it be necessary to give anti tetanus serum in an emergency.

Smallpox Vaccination

50 primary vaccinations and 30 revaccinations were carried out during the year.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis

Polio vaccine became available in adequate supply to Medical Practitioners at the Area Office, St. Austell.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases on the register at 31st December, 1963 was as follows. The figures in brackets are those of 1962.

	Males		Females		Total	
<u>Pulmonary</u>	82	(82)	54	(55)	136	(137)
Non-Pulmonary	7	(7)	8	(11)	15	(18)
Totals :	89	(89)	62	(66)	151	(155)

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of new cases and deaths for the year 1963. Deaths include all notified cases who may have died from other causes :-

	New Cases						Deaths					
Age Group	Respiratory		Meninges		Other		Respiratory		Meninges		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals :	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

In addition to the above, the following alterations were made to the Register :-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Transfers - in from other areas (From Death Return)	1	2	-	-
Transfers - out to other areas	2	-	-	-
Recoveries	6	5	-	1

Preventive measures are taken to limit spread from active cases and to protect immediate contacts of cases of offering B.C.G. vaccination.

Tuberculosis Prevention

For several years the Cornwall County Council has offered B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis to all suitable school leavers following preliminary skin testing. The suitable children are those who have not had previous B.C.G. vaccination or previous tubercular infection and therefore react negatively. In 1963 it was decided to lower the age groups to the 11 and 12 year old children.

1319 children were examined and 931 received B.C.G. vaccine. These figures are for Health Area IV and not St. Austell R.D. only, since many children from the Rural District attend schools in the adjoining Urban Districts.

SECTION G

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Annual Report - Part 1

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on register (3)	Number of inspection (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	9	3
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	69	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	-
Total :	6	78	5

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	2
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	2
(b) not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) insufficient lighting	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total :	Nil	Nil	4	Nil	4

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Section 110 No. of Outworkers Section 110(1)(c) (3)	Section 111 No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (4)
Wearing apparel Making, etc.	13	2	Nil
Household linen	15	1	Nil

